

News and Gossip of Interest to the Boy Scouts of the District and Vicinity

NEW SCOUT STAFF

IS MORE RELIABLE

Made of Stronger Wood and on Design Which Makes It More Dependable.

The new staff recently designed for Boy Scouts here and formally adopted by Troop 43, is declared to be much more reliable and dependable than those formerly used. The change of staffs was made necessary, it is said, because so many Boy Scout leaders were broken during the suffrage and inaugural parades last March.

The new scout staff was designed by Scoutmaster C. N. Filkins and Prof. R. Kent Beattie, of the Department of Agriculture. A series of experiments were carried out to determine the shape and material of the staff best fitted to meet the requirements of the scouts. Round, regular hexagonal, and octagonal staffs were eliminated for the reason that they roll too easily upon a smooth surface, such as asphalt pavement.

Staffs Broken By Hoodlums.

During the suffrage parade it was no uncommon thing for a hoodlum to wrest the staff from a scout's hand and send it flying along the pavement by giving it a kick broadside. A square staff overcame this objection, but, on the other hand, it is not easily handled.

It was finally decided to adopt an irregular octagonal pattern made in the ratio of 1 1/2 to 2 meters long, the regulation length. These can be made by making a perfectly square staff, and then chamfering the edges down so that the chamfered side is only one-half of the original side. The staff will thus have four wide sides and four narrow ones. These can be utilized as follows: One side for the English (metric) scale, one side for the French (metric) scale, one side for the Biltmore measure (a special rule used for measuring the diameter of standing trees), and one side for the name of the scout, troop number, and city.

The square and letters can be made very nicely by using steel dies, imprinting them carefully into the hard wood, and then inking in with Higgins' water-proof ink. The scout's name, troop number, name of patrol, etc., can be stamped into the staff.

The best staffs are made of second growth hickory. White ash also makes an excellent staff. Oak possesses great strength, but is rather heavy.

Advantages of New Staff.

On account of its peculiar design it provides a firm grip for the scout in actual work, as it cannot be readily twisted from his hands. It will not roll on the pavement. By being kept white by sandpapering, it is easily located in the dark. It fits firmly into the square socket of the improvised hanging square, and, being square, does not allow the hanging pan to turn over. In this way scouts can use their hanging pans and stay in a "lean-to" when it is needed.

Sometimes life depends upon the reliability of the staff, such as rescuing a drowning person from a broken log in fire fighting. At such times a weak staff is worse than useless. The staff is very useful for heating out bush fires and outbreaks which occur on open lands. A weak staff is quickly broken, and the scout's work is over.

Uses for Staff.

While a clear view can be obtained by looking through a small hole drilled through the staff, this should not be done, as it tends to weaken the staff at that point, and render it more liable to break. Besides, just as clear a view can be obtained by squinting through the almost closed fist.

In wading a stream, two or three scouts grasp the staff which should always be a strong one to stand the unusual strain, or some one will get a wetting.

In scaling a wall, or vaulting over logs, rocks, etc., a strong, reliable staff is essential. Otherwise, a scout otherwise bad falls will result, and broken bones and other serious accidents.

In making an improvised stretcher of coats and staves, a strong, reliable staff is essential. Otherwise, a scout otherwise bad falls will result, and broken bones and other serious accidents.

Reliable Staff Necessary.

What an efficient weapon in combat! A mad dog, or stopping a runaway horse is a strong staff is, whereas a weak, brash staff would be broken with the first onslaught, and the scout would probably be seriously injured.

For jumping ditches, climbing mountains, self-defense, bridge building, levering up stones and logs, a strong, reliable staff is essential. Otherwise, a scout otherwise bad falls will result, and broken bones and other serious accidents.

One will find that the cheaper ones will not do anything but the cheaper ones will not.

Boy Scouts Receive Standard of Colors

Members of Boy Scout Troop 43 last Friday night received a complete stand of colors, American flag and scout flag, at the hall, 152 Church street northwest, at the annual inspection of the troop.

Scout Commissioner E. S. Martin made an address, telling the boys of the coming race to Chicago, of the summer camp, and other activities proposed for the summer. Field Secretary Wood also made a short address. Refreshments were served by the boys. Evolutions were carried out to the sound of the bugle played by a member of Troop 43. At the close of the exercises a huge American flag was unfurled from the ceiling of the building, and the troops marched under this, saluting, as they left for their own headquarters.

Boy Scout Runners Get More Ice Cream

Within thirty minutes of opening the lawns given one night last week by members of Boy Scout Troop 43, every particle of ice cream had been sold, and there was a wild clamor for more from the guests.

Runners were dispatched to the store in haste for more ice cream and even this was exhausted before the evening was past. Cakes and other eatables were also dispensed. The finance committee reported a good showing for the benefit of the troop.



Two Boy Scouts With the New Staffs Adopted by Troop 43. These Staffs Are Said to Have Many Advantages Over the Ones Formerly Used.

SCOUTS' TROOP 21 OBSERVES FLAG DAY

Take Part in Exercises at Takoma Park School, and Hear Stories of Plains.

Flag Day exercises at Takoma Park School were made an opportunity for display of Boy Scout activity by members of Troop 21. The exercises were held Friday afternoon. Wigwag signaling was carried on across the school grounds, with Patrol Leader H. Derrick in charge. The signaling was done by Patrol Leader Goshon and Scout K. Harries. A feature of the affair was the presentation of a flag to the troop by a number of patriotic citizens of Takoma Park.

Colonel Kniffen, of the G. A. R., delivered the presentation address, and Patrol Leader Derrick made a neat address in response. The flag was given into the charge of Scout Galtley. This was the first occasion when the troop has had both an American flag and a scout flag, or a complete stand of colors.

Following the presentation the troop formed about the colors, gave the regulation salute, and sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Following the inspection the boys were given the freedom of the gymnasium and the swimming pool, and carried out games and other athletic contests during the remainder of the evening. Cake and ice cream, served in the Sunday school room, were attractive features of the entire affair. These were made by Scoutmaster Martin and Mr. Wood. Fred L. Harries, acting scoutmaster of Troop 21, related a number of stories of scouting on the Western plains when he was a scout.

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Boy Scouts to Hear Talk on "California"

Boy Scouts of Troop 16 are planning to hear an illustrated lecture on "California" by Frank H. Poston, at Ingram Memorial Congregational Church next Thursday evening. No admission will be charged, but the proceeds for the collection will be devoted to the benefit of the troop.

Scouts Play Baseball.

Boy Scouts of Troop 38 won a well-contested game of baseball last week from members of Troop 8. The game was played on the field of the Army and Navy Preparatory School. Many visitors cheered the players, among these being Vernon Bailey, scoutmaster of Troop 38. A second game is being arranged, when Troop 8 boys expect to get even.

SIX BOY SCOUTS GET THEIR CERTIFICATES

Lads Receive Honors for Passing Red Cross Test for First Aid to Injured.

Six Boy Scouts of Troop 1 here are exhibiting handsome certificates showing that they have passed examinations in first aid to the injured as prescribed by the Red Cross Society. The certificates have just been received, although the examinations were taken last April.

The boys are Fred C. Reed, the "perfect" Boy Scout, of the District; W. Walter Marr, whose showing in the examination was 94 per cent, this being considered unusually high for this class of work; John M. Stockard and D. O. Woolf, who have been granted certificates in advanced first aid; and Victor Hartshorn and C. Throckmorton, who have received certificates in elementary first aid.

The requirements for these certificates are considered practical. Red Cross workers in order to take the examinations the boy must, first of all, be a first class scout. He must devote ten weeks' time to study, and then apply for an elementary certificate, and after the boy has obtained this he must study in the same manner for an entire year before applying for the advanced certificate.

Scoutmaster Gordon Leech, of the Troop, explains the conditions under which the certificates are obtained by saying the work is practically two years of study along first aid lines. The boy applying for an advanced certificate must have devoted considerable time to subjects allied to medicine, and must have done a large amount of practical work in first aid.

The certificates are signed by the President, as president of the Red Cross Society at the time the applications were taken, Charles D. Moxon, secretary of the society, Frederic B. Pratt, chairman of the international committee of the educational department of the Boy Scouts of America, and George D. Hodge, secretary of the committee. The boys are all members of Troop 1, which is the Y. M. C. A. troop.

Flying Eagle Patrol To Be at Colonial Beach

Members of the "Flying Eagle" patrol, of Troop 1, will have a camp at Colonial Beach this summer. The place will open July 1, and continue until September 1. Sea scouting will be a feature of the work there, John Stockard, patrol leader, will have charge of the camp. There will be good boats at the camp, and practice in all sorts of boating activities, including sailing, canoeing, swimming, and the like. "The big three," Stockard, Davis, and Throckmorton are expected to take an active part in the work there.

This Picture Shows the Style of the New Staff Recently Designed by Scoutmaster C. N. Filkins and Prof. R. Kent Beattie, of the Department of Agriculture, for the Boy Scouts, and Formally Adopted by Troop 43.

Boy Scout Letters.

To the Scout Editor: Members of Troop 43 are now enroute, according to reports from scout have offered a prize to the Boy Scout who shall bring in the longest list of different varieties of birds. The locality in which the birds are found must be given, together with some description of their life, habits, and the like.

The troop has recently received a present of two volumes on bird life and plant life. The boys use these on their trips with great profit. Whenever any one sees a bird, it comes the book. The bird is promptly identified and studied with reference to its habitat and habits. We do the same thing with plants which we find along the road on our trips.

On a recent trip we discovered as many as thirty-three varieties of birds. These included red-headed woodpecker, common flicker, quail, meadow lark, singing bird, purple grackle, common blackbird, robin, five varieties of sparrow, three varieties of swallow, mock-bird, yellow bird, golden-crowned kinglet, blue jay, catbird, Maryland yellow throat, brown thrasher, Wilson thrush, and olive-backed thrush. Very truly yours, TROOP 43 SCRIBE.

To the Scout Editor: Our boys are planning a number of delightful trips this summer, and expect to have one of the finest camps in the city. Our regular camp has been established on Rock Creek just north of the park. It is located under the pines, and is very attractive. We call it "Camp Whip-poor-Will," because the whip-poor-will sings so gloriously there.

We look back to it with pleasure after each trip. Last Friday twelve boys of our troop, No. 19, went out to camp, stayed that night and over Saturday, and came back to the city in time for Sunday school next morning. We do not like to miss this Sunday study, and in all our hikes try to get back in time also.

The boys did their own cooking, made themselves sleeping bags from their blankets, gathered a large quantity of wood, built a natorium, went in swimming and took a number of short hikes. Altogether the outing was beneficial and interesting. A good deal of instructive benefit was gathered during the tramp.

Sincerely yours, VERNOR BAILEY, Scout Master, Troop 39.

To the Scout Editor: A practical suggestion which may assist scouts during their hikes is to carry a small, light, and easily carried, yet they are fairly easy to care for. Often when on a hike I find my heel has begun to pain me. The first thing is to bathe the foot in cold water to take out the pain and fever; the dirt and water should then be let out by puncturing the blister with a sharp knife. It is better not to puncture the blister directly, as this will expose the raw skin and cause pain.

When the blister thoroughly flattens, place a small piece of adhesive bandage over the blister. Use a piece about an inch wide and two inches long, doubled over. Over this place a little large than the bandage. If you have no large pieces handy, several small strips will be just as good.

I have found that, after fixing blisters in this manner one may travel along just as if nothing had happened. When dressing for a hike, I usually put a piece of adhesive plaster just where the heel part of the shoe ends. This is especially necessary when wearing low shoes. Very truly yours, EVAN M. JOHNSON, Scout Troop 17.

To the Scout Editor: We are planning a good deal of activity at two camps this summer. The "Flying Eagle Patrol" at Colonial Beach will be open from July 1 to September 1, and Camp Coffin, on the Potomac, about a mile below Colonial Beach, will be open about the same summer season. The first of these camps will be in charge of John Stockard.

The last time we were at Camp Coffin we took a long trip to the station for the direction of an old colored man. We have now devised a good scheme for keeping track of the station for the direction of an old colored man. We have now devised a good scheme for keeping track of the station for the direction of an old colored man.

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PROFICIENCY WILL

FIGURE IN RACE

Boy Scout Who Will Start on Capital-Chicago Relay Event Must Be Perfect.

Proficiency in Boy Scout work will be one of the most important tests for participation in the big relay race from Washington to Chicago, when President Wilson will send a message to Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, next week. Commenting on the affair today, he said: "The Boy Scout movement gives such a field of activity for boys that I wonder it has not been in operation for decades instead of just a few years. It operates as a character builder. It brings boys into the 'open' and into contact with nature under conditions which must build up a love for all that is best in out-door life."

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Bryan Praises Boy Scouts And The Work Already Accomplished

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